United Nations A/C.2/64/3

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 October 2009

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 56 (a)
Groups of countries in special situations: Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Letter dated 8 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the least developed countries during the general debate of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly on 29 September 2009 (see annex).

I would like to request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 56 (a).

(*Signed*) Madhu Raman **Acharya**
Permanent Representative

09-55713 (E) 191009

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 8 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Ministerial Declaration of the Least Developed Countries New York, 29 September 2009

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the least developed countries, having met in New York on 29 September 2009, during the general debate of the sixty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly, held from 23 September to 1 October 2009,

Recalling the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 and the outcome of the High-level Meeting on the Midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2009 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council on the theme "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health",

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/31 of 31 July 2009 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, held from 24 to 26 June 2009, where it was recognized that the economic and social progress achieved by developing countries in recent years is being threatened by the global economic crisis and that therefore support for them needs to be increased,

Taking note of the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development of 2008, in which support for the least developed countries with respect to their integration into the global trade system and financing for development was reiterated,

Taking note also of the annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 63/227 to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in 2011 to undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action and adopt a renewed partnership between the least developed countries and their development partners,

Adopt the following Declaration:

1. We note the progress made by the least developed countries towards implementing the goals of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, as evidenced by their improved growth performance and social progress and by the graduation of several countries from the list of least developed countries;

2. We remain concerned, however, about the uneven and insufficient progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action at a time when

the international community has commenced the preparations for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which will undertake a comprehensive appraisal of its implementation, and stress the urgent need to address areas of weakness in its implementation and the continued precarious socio-economic situation in many least developed countries through a strong commitment to the objectives, goals and targets of the Programme of Action;

3. We also express our concern regarding the severe disproportionate impact of the global economic and financial crisis on the least developed countries and recognize that the social and economic progress achieved in recent years, particularly on the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, is now threatened in developing countries, in particular in the least developed countries;

4. We express further concern that the number of people living in extreme poverty, which was already a matter of concern, is growing at an alarmingly rapid rate in the wake of the global economic crisis, placing an increasing number of people at risk of malnutrition, in particular children and women, and recognize that there are important linkages among the issues of development, poverty eradication and gender equality;

5. We recognize that the global food crisis still continues to affect the livelihoods and overall economic situation of people in the least developed countries, resulting in extreme poverty and hunger. We underscore the need for urgent and concerted efforts to ensure immediate relief measures to supply food to those in need and for long-term sustainable measures to ensure food security and agricultural development in the least developed countries;

6. We take note of measures taken by the least developed countries to mitigate the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on their economies, and recognize that the least developed countries lack the capacity to do so;

7. In this regard, we acknowledge global efforts to stabilize the world economy, including measures taken by the United Nations system and other stakeholders, as well as efforts by individual developed and developing countries;

8. We take note of the Global Plan for Recovery and Reform adopted by the Group of Twenty (G-20) at its summit held in London on 2 April 2009, and recognize its commitment to make available an additional $1.1 trillion programme aimed at revitalizing the world economy. A major portion of these funds will be available for use by emerging markets and developing countries, while a limited share ($50 billion) of these resources will be targeted specifically to low-income countries. We call upon the G-20 to further consider addressing the financial needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries. We also call upon all G-20 countries to follow through on their commitments and to monitor their implementation. While recognizing the decisions taken by the G-20, we are resolved to strengthen the role of the United Nations and its Member States in economic and financial affairs, including its coordinating role;

9. We remain concerned that the resources earmarked for the least developed countries by the international community are small in relation to the magnitude of the impact of the global financial and economic crisis, and to the financing needs of the least developed countries to cope with this adverse external shock;

10. In this regard, we urge the international community, development partners and multilateral development institutions to scale up support to the least developed countries through increased financial and technical support to enable them to cope with multiple external shocks and to mitigate the impact of the crisis on the most vulnerable segments of their populations;

11. We recognize the importance of remittances to the least developed countries and call upon the international community to provide additional support to countries experiencing serious negative effects as a result of the impact of the financial crisis on migrant remittances. In this regard, we welcome the initiative of the Government of Benin to create a pilot programme to establish an international migrant remittances observatory in accordance with the declaration of the Ministerial Conference of Least Developed Countries on Enhancing the Development Impact of Remittances, held in Cotonou on 9 and 10 February 2006, and direct the Coordination Bureau and the Ambassadors in New York to conclude, as soon as possible, the negotiations of the proposed memorandum of understanding discussed in the Working Group on Remittances, in consultation with the least developed countries;

12. We also urge the United Nations system organizations, the Bretton Woods institutions, bilateral and multilateral donors and other development partners, in view of the global crisis, to increase their assistance to the least developed countries in translating the goals and targets of the Programme of Action into concrete actions that are consistent with their national development priorities; and, as appropriate, to collaborate with and support the relevant national development forums and follow-up mechanisms, especially in the context of preparations for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

13. We reiterate the invitation to all development and trading partners to support the implementation of the transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, to avoid any abrupt reductions in either official development assistance or technical assistance provided to graduated countries, and to consider extending to graduated countries, or gradually reducing, the trade preferences previously made available to them as least developed countries, and urge them to defer the time frame already set out for countries to graduate in accordance with the 2015 target for achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

14. We recognize the specific geographical constraints and problems faced by the landlocked least developed countries, which continue to suffer from the effects of high transport costs, which are associated with poor transit facilities and policies and additional border crossings. In this regard, we call on the international community to focus greater attention on efforts to help these countries address their special development needs, in accordance with the objectives of the Brussels Programme of Action;

15. We reaffirm the special needs and challenges confronting countries emerging from conflict. In this regard, we urge the international community and the United Nations system to address these needs and challenges and take urgent and concrete action in the areas of financial assistance, technical support and infrastructure development to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and help these countries achieve a smooth transition from relief to development;

16. We underscore that development must remain at the heart of the Doha Round of trade negotiations, and we urge the international community to take on board the interests and difficulties of the least developed countries, the most vulnerable group in the United Nations community, in order to effectively integrate them into the multilateral trading system;

17. In this regard, we call for an early, ambitious, successful and balanced conclusion to the Doha Round that increases market access, generates increased trade flows, focuses on the needs of the least developed countries and emphasizes the importance of commitments to implement duty-free and quota-free market access for the least developed countries, as agreed in the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration of the World Trade Organization; to make the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries operationally effective; to ensure the parallel elimination of all forms of export subsidies and disciplines on all export measures with equivalent effect; to substantially reduce trade-distorting domestic support in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Round and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration; and to meet existing aid-for-trade pledges;

18. We urge developed countries that have not already done so, and developing countries in a position to do so, to provide immediate, predictable, duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all products originating from all least developed countries, combined with simplified and transparent rules of origin to facilitate exports from the least developed countries;

19. We urge the international community to help the least developed countries diversify their economic base by developing their productive capacities to fully benefit from globalization and global integration, as part of efforts to ensure that opportunities created by globalization benefit poor populations in the least developed countries and to manage risks of insecurity and exclusion;

20. We call upon development partners to respond to the trade capacity needs of the least developed countries by significantly increasing their contributions to the trust fund of the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries;

21. We underscore the urgent need to operationalize the Aid-for-Trade Initiative with sufficient additional, non-conditional and predictable funding, which primarily should support the efforts of the least developed countries to address their supply constraints, diversify their economies, promote value addition and improve their infrastructural, human and institutional capacities;

22. We recognize that the impacts of climate change severely hamper the lives and livelihoods of millions of poor populations in the least developed countries, especially in small islands and low-lying coastal States. We welcome the adoption of the Bali Plan of Action for long-term cooperative action to address mitigation, adaptation, financing and technology transfers;

23. We express our deep concern at the lack of progress in the current climate change negotiations and urge developed countries to commit to deeper reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. We also call on developed countries to increase financial and technological support for adaptation to climate change and to facilitate technology transfer for the sustainable development of the least developed countries. In this regard, we welcome the initiative of the Secretary-General to hold the Summit on Climate Change on 22 September 2009 in New York, and hope that it

will galvanize the political will of all countries to successfully conclude the climate change negotiations in Copenhagen this December, taking into account all the concerns of the least developed countries;

24. We reaffirm the decision of the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 63/227 of 19 December 2008, to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2011 at the highest political level;

25. We emphasize that the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries should strengthen concerted global action in support of the least developed countries;

26. We take note of the progress made in preparations for the Conference at the national, regional and global levels and commend the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the United Nations Development Programme, the regional commissions and other United Nations agencies and organizations for their efforts;

27. We welcome with appreciation the offer of the Government of Turkey to host the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, to be held in 2011;

28. We urge the regional commissions, in particular the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, to step up efforts to prepare regional reviews and, in collaboration with the United Nations resident coordinators and the Office of the High Representative, to provide support to the least developed countries in the preparation of country reviews.

United Nations A/C.2/64/4

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 October 2009
English
Original: French

Sixty-fourth session

Second Committee

Agenda item 58 (b)

Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Letter dated 5 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach the text of the communiqué adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries at their eighth annual meeting, held on 25 September 2009 in New York (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58 (b).

(*Signed*) Oumar **Daou**
Permanent Representative

09-55719 (E) 271009 271009

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 5 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]

Communiqué of the Eighth Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries

New York, 25 September 2009

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of landlocked developing countries, having met in New York on 25 September 2009 on the sidelines of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations,

Expressing concern that landlocked developing countries continue to be marginalized from international trade, thus preventing them from reaping the benefits of globalization and using trade as an instrument for achieving their development objectives, due to their lack of territorial access to the sea, remoteness and isolation from world markets, dependence on transit services and policies of their transit neighbours coupled with inadequate transit transport infrastructure facilities and cumbersome transit and border-crossing procedures,

Recalling the Almaty Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, adopted in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in 2003,[1]

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted on 8 September 2000,[2] in which Heads of State and Government recognized the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries and urged both bilateral and multilateral donors to increase financial and technical assistance to this group of countries to meet their particular development needs and to help them overcome the impediments of geography by improving their transit transport systems,

Recalling further the outcome of the 2005 World Summit,[3] in which the special needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries were reaffirmed along with reiterated commitments of the world leaders to urgently address those challenges by effectively implementing the Almaty Programme of Action,

Recalling the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action,[4] which stressed that the higher cost of moving goods across borders for landlocked developing countries puts their products at a competitive disadvantage

---

[1] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28-31 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annexes I and II.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

[3] See resolution 60/1.

[4] See resolution 63/2.

and that landlocked developing countries continue to face challenges in their efforts to establish efficient transit transport systems,

Recalling also the outcome documents of the Thematic Meeting on Transit Transport Infrastructure Development,[5] held in Ouagadougou from 18 to 20 June 2007, and of the Thematic Meeting on International Trade and Trade Facilitation,[6] held in Ulaanbaatar on 30 and 31 August 2007,

Reaffirming our commitment to urgently address the special development needs and challenges faced by the landlocked developing countries through the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action,

Recalling the Asunción Platform for the Doha Development Round,[7] adopted at the Meeting of the Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries responsible for Trade, held in Asunción on 10 August 2005, and the Ulaanbaatar Declaration adopted at the Meeting of the Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries Responsible for Trade, held in Ulaanbaatar on 28 and 29 August 2007,

Have adopted the following communiqué:

1. We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the accelerated implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action through effective and genuine partnerships between landlocked and transit countries and their development partners, as well as between public and private sectors at the national, bilateral, regional and global levels, as these partnerships are essential to the timely achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and full integration into the global economy.

2. We are committed to pursuing policy reforms to address the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action and implement the specific actions contained in the Declaration on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action. We are dedicated to prioritizing the development of efficient transit transport systems within our national budgets and overall development strategies.

3. We continue to attach the utmost importance to effective cooperation and collaboration with our transit neighbours, since landlocked developing countries depend on their transit facilities for access to and from the sea. We emphasize the importance of South-South cooperation, as transit transport cooperation falls squarely within its purview. In this context, regional economic groupings and transit agreements, as well as bilateral agreements, play a critical role in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, as they are crucial to the development of regional integrated infrastructure networks, the completion of missing links, the implementation of trade facilitation measures and the broader application of information technology.

4. We stress that broader and more effective cooperation among ourselves and between landlocked and transit developing countries is necessary to ensure a harmonized approach to the design, implementation and monitoring of trade and transport facilitation policy reforms across borders.

---

[5] A/62/256 and Corr.1, annexes I and II.

[6] A/C.2/62/4, annexes I and II.

[7] A/60/308, annex.

5. We underscore the prominent role that foreign direct investment plays in accelerating development and poverty reduction through employment, the transfer of managerial and technological know-how, and non-debt creating capital flows, as well as its key role in providing infrastructure for transport, telecommunications and utilities. We call on capital-exporting countries to provide greater financial assistance and support to landlocked developing countries in their efforts to seek foreign direct investment, by adopting and implementing economic, financial and legal incentives to encourage foreign direct investment flows to landlocked developing countries.

6. We recognize that climate change poses a potentially permanent and serious threat to the economic and social development of our countries and that it can undermine our efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, since we are the least prepared to face the challenges of adapting to climate change and mitigating its effects — effects that would even further aggravate the disadvantages we are already facing. We are vulnerable to the effects of climate change on agricultural production and food security and on water availability, erosion of biodiversity and human health. The full support of the international community is required through enhanced and effective financing mechanisms and technology support for projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promotion of capacity-building for adaptation at the national level, as well as through critical technology transfer to the landlocked developing countries. We agree to reflect our concerns at forthcoming international forums, such as the next United Nations Climate Change Conference, to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009.

7. We continue to be deeply concerned about the series of global economic crises, which have presented major threats to the development prospects of our countries. The inherent vulnerability of landlocked developing countries has exposed our economies to severely adverse effects, transmitted through the reduction of export demand and commodity prices, trade financing difficulties, contraction in flows of investment finance, a rise in protectionism and a heightened risk of reduction in official aid flows.

8. We call for donor support through greater debt relief, grants and concessional lending to assist our Governments in mitigating the worst consequences of the global crises; protect the advances made towards the realization of the Almaty Programme objectives; and help us to avoid drastic reductions in expenditures on important public services and development projects.

9. We underscore the urgent need for additional and predictable development assistance by the international community in the form of flexible, concessional and fast-disbursing financial resources to assist landlocked developing countries facing financing gaps.

10. We call on bilateral and multilateral development partners not only to maintain current levels of official development assistance to landlocked developing countries, but to further increase commitments to assist them in the establishment of efficient transit transport systems, in the form of grants or concessional loans. Financial assistance should be given on a priority basis to the development of transit transport facilities, including the completion of missing links to connect landlocked developing countries with the regional network and the design and implementation of trade facilitation measures.

11. We request an expeditious implementation of the Aid for Trade Initiative, which should give adequate consideration to the special needs and requirements of landlocked developing countries, since it aims to help developing countries to build the supply-side capacity and trade-related infrastructure they need to effectively connect with the global economy. We attach great importance to the aid for trade agenda and are committed to enhancing our participation in the monitoring process to better articulate our trade needs and priorities for support.

12. We call on all members of the World Trade Organization to expedite the Doha Round multilateral trade negotiations and reach a successful, development-supportive conclusion that ensures, inter alia, improved market access for agricultural and industrial export products of landlocked developing countries.

13. We reiterate our call to members of the World Trade Organization to facilitate the accession of landlocked developing countries to the World Trade Organization and to take into account their special problems and needs resulting from their geographical disadvantages. Targeted technical assistance should be provided to acceding landlocked developing countries during all stages of the process.

14. We emphasize the crucial importance of the World Trade Organization trade facilitation negotiations and commit to further strengthening our concerted efforts in this context, to ensure better conditions for transit trade. We reiterate our expectation for a final outcome that contains globally binding commitments to ensure freedom of transit in order to expedite the cross-border movement of goods. The United Nations and other relevant international organizations should provide greater support to strengthen the negotiating capacities of landlocked developing countries and their ability to implement trade facilitation measures.

15. We welcome the establishment in Ulaanbaatar of an international think tank for landlocked developing countries to enhance the analytical capability of landlocked developing countries; provide home-grown research that caters to our specific needs; and maximize our coordinated efforts for the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the Millennium Development Goals. We pledge full support for the operationalization and realization of the mandate of the think tank. We further express our gratitude to the Government of Mongolia for taking on this noble task and for its leadership throughout the years in matters pertaining to landlocked countries. We call upon international organizations and donor countries to assist us in achieving the objectives of the international think tank.

16. We reaffirm our full and firm commitment to pursue a collective and constructive course of action at the United Nations and other relevant forums for the promotion and protection of our common interests. We emphasize that the needs and special problems of landlocked developing countries should be adequately addressed at the relevant upcoming global forums, including the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the reviews of major United Nations conferences and of the Millennium Development Goals in 2010. In this context, we seek to further strengthen the work of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries and decide to adopt the rules of procedure agreed by all Ministers.

17. We request the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to continue to mobilize and coordinate international support and resources for the effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the Declaration on the midterm review, in accordance with its mandate. We welcome the Matrix adopted by the Fifth Inter-agency Consultative Meeting on the Almaty Programme Implementation as an important step towards better-coordinated and coherent technical assistance programmes in transit transport and trade facilitation. It should be further pursued.

18. We also request the Secretary-General to undertake the necessary measures to provide additional resources to the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to enable it to effectively carry out its additional mandate given by the General Assembly for ensuring the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action.

United Nations A/C.2/64/5

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 October 2009
English
Original: French

Sixty-fourth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 56 (b)
Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Letter dated 5 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach the text of the rules of procedure adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries at their eighth annual meeting, held on 25 September 2009 in New York (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 56 (b).

(*Signed*) Oumar **Daou**
Permanent Representative

09-55725 (E) 231009 261009

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 5 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]

Rules of Procedure of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries

1. Membership and observer status

1.1. The Group of Landlocked Developing Countries is composed of 31 developing Member States of the United Nations that have no seacoast, as defined in article 124 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (see appendix for the list of Member States).[1]

1.2. The Group may grant observer status to other United Nations Member States that are landlocked, in accordance with the definition contained in article 124 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

1.3. Any landlocked country that is a Member State of the United Nations and that wishes to participate in the work of the Group shall do so by writing to the Group's Chairperson. The Chairperson shall submit the request to the Group for consideration.

2. Objective

2.1. The Group shall provide the means for its member States to articulate and promote their collective economic interests, including, in particular, the effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, in order to enhance their joint negotiating capacity on major international economic issues within the United Nations system, the World Trade Organization and all international and multilateral forums.

2.2. The attention of the Group shall be directed primarily at achieving the best terms for the Group in resolutions, declarations, plans of action and other decisions of the United Nations General Assembly, international summits, conventions and conferences. The Group shall try to obtain concessions, facilities and additional financial resources and technical assistance from transit developing countries, donor countries, the United Nations system and other international and regional development, economic, social and financial institutions.

[1] The delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia underscored the special situation of its country with regard to its transitory maritime condition as defined in article 124 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

3. Decision-making

3.1. The Group shall take decisions based on consensus.

3.2. A presence of two thirds of the membership of the Group shall be required for the purposes of electing a new Bureau.

4. Bureau, Chairmanship and responsibilities

4.1. The Group shall elect seven members of the Bureau from among the representatives of its members according to the following geographical distribution:

Three representatives of member States from Africa

Two representatives of member States from Asia

One representative of member States from Eastern Europe

One representative of member States from Latin America

4.2. The Group shall elect a Chairperson from among the Bureau members based on the principle of geographical rotation.

4.3. The term of office of the Chairperson and Bureau of the Group shall be for a period of two years.

4.4. The primary task of the Chairperson shall be to chair all meetings of the Group and coordinate the Group's actions. The Chairperson shall act as spokesperson for the Group and represent the common views of the Group in the intergovernmental meetings of the United Nations system and all international and multilateral forums.

4.5. The Chairperson may ask a member of the Bureau to serve as an acting Chairperson during his or her absence, if necessary.

4.6. The Bureau may appoint any of its members as coordinators on specific substantive issues, such as, inter alia, international trade, financing for development and climate change.

5. Annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs

The annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries shall be convened, as appropriate, at the beginning of the regular session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York.

6. Meetings of ministers responsible for trade and transport infrastructure

6.1. Periodically, meetings of the ministers responsible for trade of the landlocked developing countries shall be convened, as appropriate, to consult on and coordinate the Group's position on trade-related issues of interest to the Group, including the negotiations at the World Trade Organization.

6.2. Periodically, meetings of the ministers responsible for transport infrastructure of the landlocked developing countries shall be convened, as appropriate.

6.3. Ad hoc ministerial meetings of landlocked developing countries may be convened, as appropriate, to consult on the Group's position on other development issues of major interest to the Group.

Appendix

Group of Landlocked Developing Countries: composition by region (as at April 2009)

Africa

1. Botswana
2. Burkina Faso
3. Burundi
4. Central African Republic
5. Chad
6. Ethiopia
7. Lesotho
8. Malawi
9. Mali
10. Niger
11. Rwanda
12. Swaziland
13. Uganda
14. Zambia
15. Zimbabwe

Asia

16. Afghanistan
17. Bhutan
18. Kazakhstan
19. Kyrgyzstan
20. Lao People's Democratic Republic
21. Mongolia
22. Nepal
23. Tajikistan
24. Turkmenistan
25. Uzbekistan

Eastern Europe

26. Armenia
27. Azerbaijan
28. Republic of Moldova
29. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Latin America

30. Paraguay
31. Plurinational State of Bolivia

Current composition of the Bureau

Chairperson: Mali
Vice-Chairpersons: Kazakhstan and Paraguay

Observers to the Group

Switzerland (Geneva-based Group)

United Nations A/C.2/64/6

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 October 2009
English
Original: Spanish

Sixty-fourth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 58 (b)
Operational activities for development:
South-South cooperation for development

Letter dated 8 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the Second Africa-South America Summit, held on 26 and 27 September 2009, on Isla de Margarita, Nueva Esparta State, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reaffirms its commitment to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. It regards that Organization as the multilateral forum par excellence for dealing with the challenges that confront the international community.

Accordingly, I have the honour to convey herewith a copy of the Declaration of Nueva Esparta issued by the Second Africa-South America Summit.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this communication as a document of the General Assembly.

I suggest that it appear under agenda item 58 (b) "South-South cooperation for development".

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Jorge **Valero**
Permanent Representative

09-55930 (E) 231009 281009

Please recycle

Annex

Declaration of Nueva Esparta II Africa-South America Summit

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Isla de Margarita, Nueva Esparta

26 and 27 September 2009

We, the Heads of State and Government of Africa and South America, meeting in the Second Africa-South America Summit (II ASA) in Nueva Esparta State, Isla de Margarita, Venezuela on 26 and 27 September of 2009;

1. *Expressing* our appreciation to His Excellency Commander Hugo Chávez Frias, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Government and the People of Venezuela for their warm reception and generous hospitality and for hosting, conducting and organizing the Second Africa-South America Summit with such excellence;

2. *Taking note* of the Abuja Declaration of the First Africa-South America Summit held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 30 November 2006 and the efforts that have been made since then to consolidate the process of cooperation and strategic partnership between our two regions;

3. *Affirming* the commitment, as contained in the Abuja Declaration, to continue strengthening the links between our two regions and to foster and enhance cooperation in various areas of mutual interest;

4. *Considering* also the deeply rooted historical and cultural ties that have inspired this relationship;

5. *Acknowledging* the active participation of Afro-descendant population in the development of South America as well as the contribution of South American countries to the consolidation of political independence and development on the African continent as part of this process;

6. *Reaffirming* our commitment to foster South-South Cooperation as a major objective of both regions, in order to complement the traditional North-South Cooperation and promote, among other aims, sustained economic growth and decent work, enable social justice, foster inclusive social policies by mainstreaming the effective participation of youths, civil society and gender groups and persons with special needs, ensure equality, respect and mutual regard among states in the global system, promote economic cooperation and facilitate distribution of the benefits derived from exchange of goods and services, as well as generation and transfer of technical knowledge, aiming at the accomplishment of the Millennium Development Goals;

7. *Agreeing* to exchange experience and foster close and effective co-operation between our regions, with the strong support of the African Union (AU) and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), important pillars of cooperation among our peoples, already forged by the contribution and role of both Organizations in the preparatory meetings leading up to the Second Summit;

8. *Commending* the efforts undertaken so far by the Follow-Up Coordinating Committee of ASA to intensify cooperation between Africa and South

America and also to promote effective multilateralism for the mutual benefits of the states and peoples of the two regions;

9. *Recognizing* the outcomes of the International Seminar on the Poles of the South held in Caracas from 20 to 21 May 2008 and the Ministerial and Senior Officials/Experts Conferences held between the two Summits;

10. *Reiterating* our will to promote peace, security and international cooperation on the basis of adherence to multilateralism, observance of International Law, the Rule of Law, Democracy, and respect of human rights and International Humanitarian Law;

11. *Reaffirming* likewise our commitment to disarmament, non proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and the fight against traffic in small arms and light weapons in all their aspects; taking into consideration the decision to fight the global drug problem, within the framework of common and shared responsibility, terrorism in all its form, piracy, mercenarism, transnational organized crime, especially the traffic of persons and the smuggling of migrants;

Declare that:

12. In order to translate this wider commitment into action, we affirm the need to develop, consolidate and build on our axes of cooperation in the following specific areas:

I. Cooperation in the multilateral area

13. *We renew* our commitment to multilateralism within the framework of unrestricted respect for the norms and principles of International Law and the Charter of the United Nations.

14. *We state* our full support for the reform of the UN Security Council, as a process that, more than anything, should ensure a greater participation of developing countries in South America and Africa and the improvement of their working methods in order to correct current imbalances and make this Council a more democratic, transparent, representative, effective and legitimate body that responds to the new political realities. In this sense, we commend the efforts made in the intergovernmental negotiations on this matter, in accordance with Decision 62/557 of the UN General Assembly. We hope that this new stage of negotiations will be inclusive and fruitful in the 64th Session of the General Assembly.

15. *We take note* that Africa maintains its common position on the UN Reform, as stipulated in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government of July 2005, and reaffirm our commitment to the conclusion of the global processes of the UN Reform.

II. Cooperation to fight crime and other related matters

16. *We renew* our decision to strengthen initiatives for cooperation to fight all forms of transnational organized crime, such as illicit trafficking in Small Arms, Light Weapons and Ammunitions, the fight against human trafficking and against proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, both at the bilateral

and multilateral levels, as well as our determination to implement follow-up mechanisms and action plans for institutional development and exchange of information with a view to developing joint work and cooperation in this area.

17. *We recognize* the adverse effects that all aspects of the worldwide problem of drugs, including the illegal traffic of narcotics and psychotropic substances and related crimes, have on security, peace, governance, economic development and public health of our peoples, as this poses a serious challenge to social and political institutions, contributes to environmental degradation and poverty, and weakens the efforts for social integration. In this respect, we commit ourselves to fostering initiatives, proposals, actions and activities to fight this phenomenon, both bi-regionally and bilaterally, acting always under the principles of common and shared responsibility, demanding an integral and balanced approach, respect for the sovereignty of States and their territorial integrity, non intervention in the internal affairs and respect for human rights, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations.

III. Peace and security

18. *We express* our commitment to maintenance of international peace and security, as well as peaceful dispute settlement, observing the principle against the threat or use of force in international relations and supporting peace processes in Africa as well as strengthening of existing mechanisms to prevent and solve conflicts.

19. *We emphasize* the importance of promoting peace in both regions, by bolstering measures to encourage confidence and cooperation in the fields of defence and security, as the best means to warrant stability, security, democracy, human rights and comprehensive development of our peoples.

20. *We recall* the need to peacefully solve, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, any problems or disputes which may endanger regional or global stability, as well as the determination to take appropriate and effective measures against any threats to peace and security caused by the proliferation of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, as well as the illicit traffic in arms, ammunitions and explosives, under the relevant provisions of the United Nations.

21. *We commit ourselves* to continue strengthening dialogue and cooperation for promotion of peace and security between organizations and mechanisms in which we are members of, such as the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, the South-American Defense Council of UNASUR and the Zone of Peace and Cooperation in the South Atlantic (ZPCSA).

22. *We emphasize* the importance of cooperation in the area of peace consolidation, both through acting within the Peace Building Commission (PBC) of the United Nations, and the Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy of the African Union. We commend the work developed by the PBC in Burundi, Sierra Leone, Central African Republic and Guinea-Bissau and urge support for both Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy of the AU and the PBC.

23. *We stress* the importance of the United Nations Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in

All Its Aspects and call upon all States to participate and contribute towards the continued implementation of the above-mentioned Program.

24. *We condemn* the production and use of anti-personnel mines, by any country, as they jeopardize the lives of our peoples, affect their physical and emotional integrity and have a negative impact on the wellbeing and development of communities. The member states reaffirm their commitment to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, and invite all States which have not yet done so to adhere to or ratify this Convention.

25. *We express* concern over the existence of explosives left behind by the Second World War, especially in the form of landmines and other remnants of war, which continue to cause humanitarian and material damage and also obstruct development processes. In this regard, we call on the countries responsible for planting these landmines and explosives to cooperate with the affected countries, through the provision of maps that show locations of landmines and explosives, as well as the provision of the necessary technical assistance for their complete removal.

26. *We condemn* terrorism in all its manifestations and we reject any linking of terrorism to a specific culture, ethnicity, religion or peoples. We emphasize the importance of combating terrorism via active and efficient international cooperation in the framework of the relevant regional organizations and the United Nations, based on the respect of the objectives and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in strict conformity with the principles of International law and human rights. We also share the conviction that the recourse to payment of ransom for terrorism should be condemned and criminalised.

27. *Recognising* the threats and negative consequences caused by piracy which have greatly interrupted maritime and international security, we underscore the need for the international community to deal with the root causes of the piracy problem in territorial and international waters and strongly condemn and discourage payment of all forms of ransom on piracy.

28. *We support* the negotiations developed within the framework of the United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons on the prohibition of production and use of cluster ammunition given the damage they cause to civil populations.

29. *We reiterate* our deep concern at the use, recruitment, funding, training and transport of mercenaries or any other form of support to mercenaries, in violation of the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations.

IV. Democracy, governance, human rights and political issues

30. *We reiterate* that human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent, and that the international community should address itself to its comprehensive defense. We encourage the establishment of cooperation mechanisms among the countries of Africa and South America aimed at ensuring and promoting rights inherent to the individual, protected by International Law, including the right to development.

31. *We condemn* racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, as they deny the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Our principles are based on respect for human rights and fundamental liberties of everybody without drawing a distinction of ethnic origin, colour, gender, religion, political opinions or any other. We commit ourselves to delve into bi-regional cooperation and exchange of practices to fight any and all forms of intolerance, in accordance with the commitments undertaken under the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action.

32. *We emphasize* the importance of promoting, at the relevant multilateral forums, respect for cultural, ethnic, religious, and linguistic diversity, as well as the comprehension of their different cultures among the peoples and nations of the world. We recognize the significance of national and regional peculiarities, as well as different historic and religious heritages within the framework of progressive development of International Law of Human Rights.

33. *We call for* the strengthening of those national institutions in charge of timely implementing the Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in its Resolution AG/61/295 of September 13, 2007.

34. *We underline* the importance of promoting the exchange of experiences in the area of the rights of women, children and youth, as well as the promotion of the rights of the elderly and people with disabilities.

35. *We reaffirm* the commitment of the States to full observance and protection of child and youth rights as a priority area of public policies in the fight against poverty and the fostering of health, education and culture, and the protection against all kinds of labour and sexual exploitation in the higher interest of children, with the State, society and family assuming their responsibility of ensuring maximum enjoyment of their fundamental rights.

36. *We advocate* the right to development, democracy and respect and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, including isolated indigenous peoples.

37. *We highlight* the importance of fostering an Agenda, within the framework of WIPO, with a view to promote the transfer and dissemination of technology and access to knowledge and education to the benefit of developing countries and countries of less relative development, and the most vulnerable social groups.

38. *We call upon* the international community not to approve unilateral illegal and coercive measures as a means of exerting political, military or economic pressure against any country, in particular against developing countries, according to the Charter of the United Nations.

39. *We urge* the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Argentine Republic to resume negotiations in order to find, as a matter of urgency, a fair, peaceful and lasting solution to the dispute concerning sovereignty over the Falklands/Malvinas Islands and South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and surrounding maritime spaces, in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations and other pertinent regional and international organizations.

40. *We urge* the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, and the Republic of Mauritius to pursue negotiations in order to find, as a matter of urgency, a fair, peaceful and definitive solution to the issues regarding the sovereignty over Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, and Tromelin and the surrounding maritime spaces, in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations and the other pertinent regional and international organizations.

41. *We urge* the Republic of France and the Union of Comoros to resume negotiations in order to find, as a matter of urgency, a fair, peaceful and definitive solution to the dispute regarding sovereignty over the Island of Mayotte and its surrounding maritime spaces in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations and the other pertinent regional and international organizations.

V. Agriculture, agribusiness, rural development and water resources

42. *We recognise* the pressing need to articulate policies allowing for food security, including access to food, and therefore underscore our determination and strong willingness to conduct joint studies and exchange experiences in the field of food security in order to facilitate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, we reject the distorting policies adopted by developed countries, due to the negative impact they have on agricultural production and investment in developing countries and on the exercise of the right to food.

43. *We recognize* the importance of water as a natural resource of States that is an essential element for life, with socio-economic and environmental functions. We shall promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.

44. *We realize* the need to promote sustainable use of water, and in this regard, we shall promote the exchange of information and best practices between our regions with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

45. *We reaffirm* our commitment to the multilateral system as a valid tool to help solve the issue of hunger and poverty. In this regard, we urge developed countries to fulfil their funding commitments, undertaken at the High-Level Conference on World Food Security, held at FAO in June 2008. Further, we highlight our commitment to reinforce the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) as a multilateral forum where all the States can find alternatives to solve the world food insecurity.

VI. Economy, trade, investment and tourism

46. *We take into account* the outcome of the First Conference of Trade Ministers of Africa and South America held on 19 June 2008 in Marrakech, Morocco.

47. *We recognize* that the principles of complementarity, cooperation and solidarity contribute to social and economic development, as well as to transparent, non-discriminatory, fair and all-inclusive trade, in accordance with the multilateral rules of trade notwithstanding integration mechanisms and ratifying the need for ethical and responsible practices, taking into account the asymmetries, developmental differences and strategic peculiarities of each country. In this regard

we recognize that international trade and commercial, scientific, technological and innovative exchange should be factors that contribute to growth, sustainable development, poverty reduction, and, in some instances, the protection and defence of traditional cultural knowledge, conservation practices and sustainable use of biodiversity, and to the strengthening of the fraternal dialogue among peoples, as well as their sovereign right of peoples to the use of their resources.

48. *We agree* that fostering South-South trade and investment contributes to the complementarities of developing economies and to the identification of new opportunities for economic and commercial exchanges. In this regard, we believe that the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP) is a tool in the attainment of these objectives and, therefore, call for a prompt conclusion of the 3rd Round Negotiations of the Generalized System of Trade Preferences that enables the diversification of production relations in accordance with the strategic areas of interest that may be identified by both regions.

49. *We reaffirm* the fundamental role of the State in the definition of economic and social policies and as an economic stakeholder in socio-economic development, taking into account the peculiarities of each country.

50. *We recognize* the role of the private sector and other organized social stakeholders, and the importance of productive investment and its commitment to the economic development of our countries, and reiterate the will to foster cooperation to promote that sector in our development agenda in accordance with the interests, priorities and needs of each State.

51. *We reaffirm* our commitment to reach a successful conclusion to the Doha Development Round of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in a fair and balanced manner to developing countries. Likewise we reaffirm the need for a transparent process involving all the members of the WTO, taking into account the needs of developing countries. Similarly, special attention should be given to the need of coordinating the positions of the two regions within the framework of the WTO, so as to promote the interests of developing countries by paying attention, in particular, to the challenges faced by less relatively developed countries.

52. *We commit ourselves* to the promotion of tourism as a factor of integration. We also commit ourselves to the promotion of tourism based on community development and absolute respect for our cultural heritage, customs and traditions.

53. *We recognize* that the current financial and economic crisis is a structural crisis. We therefore commit ourselves to fostering the changes needed in order to enable the establishment of a new international financial architecture, which must be based on a democratic decision-making process, including a balanced participation of all parties concerned and taking into account the views and perspectives of developing countries. We emphasize, likewise, the need to prevent the losses from such crises from being transferred to developing countries through the implementation of various financial safeguard mechanisms. We agree that in order to speed up the establishment of the proposed new international financial architecture, it is necessary to strengthen regional systems through the promotion of supportive financial and monetary institutions based on solidarity, cooperation, endogenous regional development and the formation of more democratic, fair and

equitable societies within the framework of respect for national independence and sovereignty.

54. *We recognize* the need to move forward in the adoption of financial safeguard measures required to prevent the costs of the international financial crisis, taking into special consideration the conditions and circumstances of the more vulnerable economies. We agree on the need to foster the design of a new international and regional financial architecture in order to achieve the comprehensive development of our peoples.

VII. Combating poverty and hunger

55. *We reaffirm* our commitment to intensify our efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, both in rural and urban areas with special attention to most vulnerable peoples, by tackling the root causes that generate them, with a view to fostering societies based on values such as social justice, solidarity, complementarity, equality, social inclusion, citizens' involvement and respect for human rights and respect for Mother Earth in accordance with the provisions set out in Resolution 63/278 of the United Nations General Assembly. In this regard, we recognize the need to develop rural and urban areas in poverty situation by pursuing their inclusion into national projects.

56. *We reiterate* the importance of achieving the Development Objectives contained in the Millennium Declaration, and agree to develop and engage in joint efforts in the fight for eradicating poverty and hunger on a worldwide scale, as well as to promote social inclusion. Likewise, we underline the need to uphold the commitment reaffirmed in the Monterrey Consensus in 2002 (United Nations Conference on Financing for Development), whereby industrialized countries are to set aside 0.7% of their GDP to official development assistance (ODA) in favour of developing countries and 0.2% in favour of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

VIII. Infrastructure development

57. *We commit ourselves* to identifying joint initiatives on the basis of the needs of each bloc for funding and developing projects.

58. *We recognize* the Infrastructure Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America (IIRSA), the South-American Infrastructure and Planning Council of UNASUR, the New Partnership for the Development of Africa (NEPAD), and the Short-Term Action Plan (STAP) of the African Union as the foundations for mutual exchange and support in the field of infrastructure.

59. *We renew* our commitment to facilitate transit through the territory of transit countries by all means of transport, in accordance with the applicable rules of International Law, to landlocked developing countries, and recognize that their special characteristics deserve an adequate approach to deal with their specific problems.

IX. Energy and solid minerals

60. *We agree* to consolidate our efforts in order to exchange experiences in terms of development and universal use of energy sources and energy saving by the governments and the peoples of both regions, in particular clean, renewable and alternative energy sources, with a view to extending their sustainable diffusion and utilization, as well as achieving maximum efficiency in their usage, in accordance with the relevant economic, social and environmental aspects, thus contributing to the economic and social transformation of the countries of Africa and South America. Considering the envisaged use of fossil fuels going into the future, both regions will cooperate on matters relating to the sustainable production and use of fossil fuel, particularly oil and gas.

61. *We commit ourselves* to enhancing energy-related cooperation between Africa and South America in order to contribute to industrial growth, the development of energy infrastructure, the exchange and transfer of technologies, the reduction of transaction costs and the training of human skills in order to attain the strategic goal of energy security and integration.

62. *We recognize* the importance of creating conditions to increase the presence of African and South American companies including the energy and mining sectors in both regions, which would contribute to strengthening South-South trade and investment. We renew our earlier mandate for AFREC and UNASUR to prepare an energy strategy to promote sustainable development, while respecting the sovereign rights to manage and regulate natural resources.

63. *We reaffirm* the importance of continuing the studies to diversify the energy matrix in Africa and South America, as well as studies on the potential of other alternative sources of energy.

64. *We commit ourselves* to joining efforts with the aim of ensuring the exchange of experiences in the areas of Prospecting, Exploration and Treatment of Mineral Resources, prioritizing local transformation, in a diversified manner, using clean technologies that preserve the environment.

65. *We commit ourselves* to implementing joint projects, to be identified, in the areas of energy technologies and minerals.

X. Social issues and sports

66. *We reaffirm* sports, physical education and recreation as fundamental elements of transformation in improving the living conditions and physical and mental health of citizens, as well as in the processes of social inclusion and strengthening both individual and collective self-esteem and national identity.

67. *We support* the Tunisian initiative on the Proclamation of the year 2010 as the International Year of Youth as well as the holding of a Youth World Congress under the auspices at the United Nations and relevant International Organizations.

68. *We commit ourselves* to providing all the necessary support to ensure the success of the Africa Cup of Nations, to be held in Angola in January 2010, the success of the 2010 FIFA World Cup to be held in South Africa and the 2014 FIFA

World Cup to be held in Brazil, and welcome the candidacy of Rio de Janeiro to host the Olympic Games in 2016.

69. *We decide* to establish sports competitions between Africa and South America and call upon the specialized Federations of both continents to work together in collaboration with all actors in order to organize different tournaments.

70. *We commit ourselves* to implementing active policies aimed at generating decent work and implementing the International Labour Organization fundamental conventions for creating conditions of quality employment for the development of our human resources, and to formulating economic policies giving globalization an ethical dimension by placing the person at the centre of public policies.

71. *We welcome* the programs approved by many countries to attain the full integration of immigrants into their societies as well as the reunion with their families. In this context, we recognize the important work being developed within the United Nations framework.

72. *We shall join efforts* to work on and strengthen the areas of cooperation and integration in the field of health with a view to identifying structural weaknesses and other illness-determining social factors and preventing the high maternal and infant death rates, malnutrition, and improving access to drinking water, as well as fighting the transmission of HIV/AIDS/STDs and their impact on the population, as well as of other poverty-related illnesses such as tuberculosis, malaria, and other epidemics coexisting with non-transmittable diseases, through promotion of national and international initiatives which aim to produce and equitably distribute new vaccines and widen the access to essential medicines, with a view to guaranteeing health as an inalienable right of our peoples and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

73. *We shall take* action in order to exchange information and good practices in fighting the risks of A (H1N1) Influenza for the peoples of both regions, particularly for the poorest and those with no ready access to health services. We advocate, jointly, sharing viral strains with pandemic potential, by using the system of the World Health Organization and building an equitable and fair system to share the benefits arising from the use of this genetic material.

XI. Science, technology and information and communication technologies (ICTs)

74. *We shall join efforts* to embark on initiatives of cooperation and exchange of experiences aimed at building the scientific, technological and institutional capacities of the STI (science, technology and innovation) national systems and the formulation and implementation of policies aimed at the sustainable development and social progress of both regions, with a view to foster integration and rapprochement of the African and South American scientific communities promoting the generation, transfer and social appropriation of scientific and technical knowledge. In this respect, and in order to promote social inclusion, we commit ourselves to fostering the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), as well as other technologies, with a view to facilitating opportunities of education, health and better living conditions for the population.

75. *We affirm* the importance of joining efforts in order to make our history and current reality known, as well as our cultural diversity and common issues and problems, through the exchange of radio-and television-broadcast contents, which enable the initiation of cooperation in the areas of communication and information, and contribute to progressively establishing bi-regional television and radio stations.

76. *We emphasize* the need for consolidating cooperation between Africa and South America in the fields of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as well as undertaking joint action in order to reduce the digital divide as stipulated in the Tunis Declaration adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society held in 2005, and to promote technological literacy and the development and use of free software.

XII. Educational and cultural issues

77. *We regard* as fundamental the establishment of joint research projects in strategic and priority areas for both regions through permanent exchange programs for students, researchers and teachers, as well as the fostering of networks of teachers, researchers and students between academic institutions, and mechanisms of triangular cooperation and scholarship programs for those projects within the spirit of solidarity and complementarity.

78. *We also regard* as important the reinforcement of the bonds existing between the Diplomatic Academies of Africa and South America with a view to promoting mutual knowledge among the new generations of diplomats and the consolidation of new, multidisciplinary professional training.

79. *We commit ourselves* to strengthening and deepening supportive cooperation relations among the peoples of Africa and South America in order to recognize our cultural and historic heritage so as to coordinate efforts to guarantee education as a public, human right and universal asset based on the principles of social equality, inclusion and relevance in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals in the field of education.

80. *We recognize* the incidence of illiteracy as a factor of social exclusion in the development of our countries. We therefore agree to consolidate efforts, from a perspective of social and gender equality, to contribute to eradicate this scourge through the exchange and the promotion of successful practices in the field of teaching to read and write with a view to reaching the Millennium Development Goals.

81. *We take note* that chewing coca leaves is an ancestral cultural manifestation of the Bolivian people, which must be respected by the international community.

82. *We uphold* the commitment to exchange experts and develop joint research projects on the contribution of the African Diaspora to the culture of the peoples of South America and we support the arrangements being advanced for the 2nd African Union Diaspora Summit, to be held in the near future.

83. *We call* for the holding of festivals, meetings and other types of exchanges enabling mutual knowledge and cultural and human enrichment. We congratulate the countries that have implemented initiatives in this regard.

84. *We reaffirm* our commitment to advance in the acquisition and transfer of knowledge in the field of cultural heritage. We also express our concern over the illegal export, import and transfer of ownership of cultural property from our countries. We finally emphasize the need for the full implementation of the 1970 and 1995 Conventions of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on returning the cultural properties to the countries of origin.

XIII. Environment

85. *We underline* the need to embrace the issue of climate change within the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol, in accordance with the principles, norms and commitments set forth in the said international juridical framework. We highlight the relationship between the historical responsibility of developed countries for global warming and the obligation of those countries, as Parties to the Convention, to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases. We underline the need to define, in 2009, more ambitious reduction targets for developed countries for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and, also, of comparable mitigation commitments and actions for all developed countries. Moreover, we agree on the need to continue fostering positions of consensus within the Group of 77 plus China in the process of negotiation of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action, created by the Bali Action Plan.

86. *We reaffirm* the need for a strong political commitment of the developed countries based on their historical responsibility, including those countries that did not adhere to the Kyoto Protocol to adopt and comply with their emission reduction commitments. We oppose any intention of modifying the balance of rights and obligations established in the Kyoto Protocol in respect of the mitigation commitments.

87. *We reiterate* our support for the Special Climate Change Fund aimed at developing countries, which works for the strengthening of domestic capacities in the face of climate imbalances and disasters. We therefore urge developed countries to make urgent and substantial contributions permitting developing countries to make use of the financial resources needed to take early adaptation actions. We commit ourselves to working towards achieving the outcome agreed upon within the framework of the Bali Action Plan of 2007 at the 15th Conference of the Parties, to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 2009, and which we hope will enable a full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In this regard, we pledge to promote our positions in the said conference.

88. *We reiterate* our political commitment regarding the implementation of the 10 year Strategic Plan and Framework to foster the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), approved by the 8th Conference of the Parties, at all levels.

89. *We take note* of the national initiative undertaken by Ecuador, called Yasuní-ITT and aimed, among other aspects, at promoting the exploration and development of alternative sources to obtain revenues, reduce the non-sustainable

production of natural resources and optimize the conservation of biological diversity.

90. *We also take note* of the project the Great Green Wall of Africa with a view to stop the desert from advancing in the Saharo-Sahelian region.

XIV. Institutional development, exchange of information and shared view on appropriate practices

91. *We believe* in a new conception of international economic relations fostering actively South-South exchange and based on the principles of transparency, complementarities, cooperation and solidarity, and enabling an adequate distribution of the benefits derived from the exchange of goods and services, in compliance with the norms of the multilateral trade system, supported by new instruments and regional financial institutions and strengthening the comprehensive development of peoples through the utilization of the potentials existing in their national territories.

92. *We recognize* and commit ourselves to undertaking efforts to promote sustainable and productive development, sharing best practices in fostering the development of micro and small enterprises and other alternative forms of production, the promotion of micro finances and the training and education of human resources for work enabling to contribute to the well-being of our peoples and to sustainable development as an engine of transformation in the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

XV. Follow-up mechanism

93. *We take into account* the Africa-South America Follow-up Mechanism that was established under the Abuja Declaration and urge Member States to give it the necessary support in the fulfilment of its mandate. The Follow-up Committee comprising High-Level Officials shall be responsible for proposing new initiatives and undertaking actions on previously agreed programs and projects, reviewing the progress of their implementation and disseminating information about cooperation arrangements. It shall also follow up on Ministerial and Summit decisions, and submit recommendations to Summits.

94. *We take note* of the proposals contained in the "Nueva Esparta Implementation Plan" as well as the "Implementation Programme" of the ASA Declaration and Plan of Action presented by the South American and African parties, respectively. Both documents are annexed to the current Declaration. Expressing our satisfaction over the inaugural meetings of the eight ASA Work Groups, *We agree* that the ASA Member States shall meet within six months at the Senior Officials level with the objective of producing a harmonized Implementation Programme that will define the prioritized projects, timeframe for implementation and financial mechanisms, these will then be submitted for approval during the next Ministerial Meeting.

95. In order to ensure effective implementation of this Declaration and the Implementation Plan, **we agree to reinforce** the Follow-up Mechanism as follows:

i. A meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs for implementing actions will be held parallel to the 65th United Nations General Assembly;

ii. Regular meetings of the various Working Groups will take place at least once a year to ensure the full implementation of the projects they envisaged;

iii. A meeting will be held with the participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela, as host country of the Second ASA Summit; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the host country of the Third ASA Summit; Brazil and Nigeria, as Regional Coordinators; the Chairperson of the African Union Commission; and Ecuador, as *Pro Tempore* President of UNASUR in order to evaluate this Bi-Regional Mechanism as well as the execution of the Nueva Esparta Implementation Plan and the Nueva Esparta Programme of Implementation.

96. *We gladly accept* the offer of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to host the Third Africa - South America Summit (ASA) in 2011.

United Nations A/C.2/64/7

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 October 2009

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 52
Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference

Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

Note by the Secretariat

In its resolution 2009/30 of 31 July 2009, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the following modalities for a strengthened and more effective intergovernmental inclusive process for carrying out the financing for development follow-up:

(a) The special high-level spring meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the international financial and trade institutions could last from the existing one day up to two days, and should normally be held before the spring meetings of the Bretton Woods institutions and should be timed appropriately, at least five weeks before those meetings, so as to meet the needs of all parties and be conducive to high-level participation. Discussions at the first segment would concentrate on a topic of current interest, to be determined by the President of the Council in consultation with the participants. The second segment would be organized under the overall theme of "Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development" and would include a holistic review of the Monterrey Consensus,[1] with special emphasis on one or two topics to be determined in advance of the meeting by the President of the Council in consultation with the participants. The meeting will result in a President's summary which should clearly identify key elements of the discussion and be formally presented to all the participants, including the major institutional stakeholders, as appropriate, and in a timely manner. Increased interaction and coordination at the staff level with the institutions involved, prior to the holding of the Council's

[1] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

09-57282 (E) 231009

Please recycle

special high-level spring meeting, including the possibility of appropriate preparatory sessions, are especially encouraged. The President of the Council, in consultation with Member States, is encouraged to continue to work with the appropriate representatives of the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to improve, inter alia, the format of the Council's high-level spring meeting;

(b) The Economic and Social Council should continue to strengthen its role in promoting coherence, coordination and cooperation in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development,[2] and as a forum for multi-stakeholder involvement. Consideration of the agenda item on financing for development should be given more prominence in the work of the annual substantive session of the Council and should be allotted up to two full days within its four-week annual session. The Council should normally adopt a substantive resolution, taking into account, inter alia, the outcome of the preceding high-level spring meeting;

(c) The Economic and Social Council recommends that the General Assembly should also give more prominence to its annual agenda item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference". The Assembly may also wish to reaffirm the importance of its biennial High-level Dialogues on Financing for Development as the intergovernmental focal point for the general follow-up to the 2002 International Conferences on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference, placing a particular emphasis on new challenges and emerging issues;

(d) The Secretariat should continue to ensure that all documents relevant to the agenda item on financing for development are made available in a timely manner, both to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly. To further enhance the quality of its reports, the Secretariat should continue to make full use of all existing analytical work and relevant data, including those available from the institutional stakeholders and the specialized agencies;

(e) Participation in this strengthened process will continue to be open to all the relevant financing for development stakeholders, including specialized agencies, funds and programmes, regional commissions, other international organizations, civil society entities and business sector groups, through application of the traditional financing for development accreditation and participation modalities. Prominent experts may also be invited to provide inputs in the discussions;

(f) Seminars, panel discussions and briefings may be organized as part of the preparations for, and contribution to, the above events in order to raise visibility, attract interest and participation, and promote substantive discussions on a continuing basis. There could be the reinitiation of a programme of multi-stakeholder consultations, including civil society and the private sector, by the Financing for Development Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, drawing on a broad range of financing for development-related topics, as well as a wider and more effective use of the financing for development web page as an information tool;

---

[2] General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex.

(g) The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, especially the Financing for Development Office, is encouraged to maintain a regular interaction at the staff level with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in the interest of greater coherence, coordination and cooperation, each acting in accordance with its respective intergovernmental mandate, for their mutual benefit.

United Nations A/C.2/64/8

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 October 2009
English
Original: Spanish

Sixty-fourth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 58 (b)
Operational activities for development: South-South cooperation for development

Letter dated 21 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the Seventh ALBA Summit, held in the city of Cochabamba, Plurinational State of Bolivia, on 17 October 2009.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reaffirms its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and considers the latter to be the multilateral forum par excellence for addressing the challenges facing the international community.

In this context, I have the honour to attach a copy of the Final Declaration of the Seventh ALBA-TCP Summit (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 58 (b).

(*Signed*) Jorge **Valero**
Permanent Representative

09-57762 (E) 031109 051109

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 21 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration of the Seventh Summit of the Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América — Tratado Comercial de los Pueblos (ALBA-TCP) (Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America — Peoples' Trade Agreement)

Cochabamba, Bolivia, 17 October 2009

The Heads of State and Government of the countries members of the Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América — Tratado de Comercio de los Pueblos (ALBA-TCP) (Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America — Peoples' Trade Agreement), on the occasion of their Seventh Summit, held in the city of Cochabamba, Plurinational State of Bolivia, on 17 October 2009, and of the fifth anniversary of the founding of ALBA, emphasize its constitution as a political, economic and social alliance to defend the sovereignty, self-determination and identity of peoples and as a message that a better world is possible.

ALBA-TCP upholds the principles of international law, in particular respect for sovereignty, self-determination of peoples, the right to development, territorial integrity, the promotion of social justice and international peace, as well as the rejection of aggression, the threat or use of force, foreign interference and unilateral coercive measures against developing countries.

ALBA-TCP promotes the principles of solidarity, cooperation, complementarity, mutual respect for the sovereignty of our countries, justice, equity, respect for cultural diversity and harmony with nature and plays a fundamental role for revolutionary and progressive processes worldwide as an alliance that promotes solidarity among the countries of the South.

Two hundred years after the first cries of liberty were heard in the Americas, the Heads of State and Government of ALBA-TCP reiterate their firm commitment to continue working for the independence, liberation, self-determination and unity demanded by the peoples of our America and the Caribbean and hereby adopt the following declaration:

I

1. By their very nature, capitalism and its principal expression, imperialism, are destroying humankind's own existence and our Mother Earth. The global economic crisis, the climate change crisis, the food crisis and the energy crisis are all structural in nature and can be blamed essentially on unsustainable patterns of production, distribution and consumption, the concentration and accumulation of capital in a few hands, the relentless, indiscriminate pillaging of natural resources, the commercialization of life and speculation at all levels for the benefit of a few.

2. The global economic crisis, which began in the developed countries and which we did not cause, is affecting the developing countries more severely, increasing poverty and unemployment. Far from seeing a funding flow from North to South, we are witnessing a growing trend towards net capital transfers from South to North.

The aim of the dominant global economic policies is not to promote human well-being but to save a handful of banks and corporations.

3. Despite its limitations, the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development, held in June of this year, demonstrated the urgent need to move ahead with building a new international economic order that is fair and equitable and that recognizes and supports the development goals of the countries of the South, such as the creation of new development mechanisms, the building of a new international financial architecture, the consolidation of an alternative international currency and the development of trade that is complementary, fair and based on solidarity.

4. The financial crisis will not be resolved by the G-8, the G-20 or other exclusive groups. The solution can only come from the G-192, as represented by the General Assembly of the United Nations, where every country has an equal voice and an equal vote. In this context, there is a need to promote the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly established to follow up the crisis.

5. The world economic crisis cannot be resolved by purely financial, regulatory, monetary or commercial measures. A structural crisis requires structural solutions. The developed countries' support for the major banks is increasing the centralization of financial sector capital in the hands of small groups, making it difficult to monitor and regulate the sector. Moreover, there is an absence of appropriate mechanisms for supervising the management of major corporations and free competition policies. For this reason, a radical overhaul is needed in the real economy and not just in the financial sphere.

6. To the world economic crisis must be added that of climate change, which is part of a wider environmental crisis affecting Mother Earth. Each year, humankind consumes a third more than the planet's capacity for regeneration. If the capitalist system continues to squander resources at this rate, two planet Earths will be needed by 2030.

7. Human beings are part of an interdependent system of plants, animals, mountains, forests, oceans and air with which they must live in harmony and balance, respecting the rights of all. In order to safeguard human rights, the rights of Mother Earth must be recognized and protected. It is therefore essential that the United Nations adopt a Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth.

8. Global warming and climate change are causing the melting and loss of glaciers, a decline in water resources and hence in sources of drinking water, drought in various regions, more frequent hurricanes and natural disasters and loss of biodiversity and human lives.

9. The developed countries owe a climate debt, part of a bigger environmental debt, to the developing countries because of their historical responsibility for emissions and because of the adaptations that we will have to make as a result of the global warming that they have caused. This climate debt must be recognized and honoured through the provisions of the current climate change regime, meaning that they must: (a) make deep cuts in their domestic emissions of greenhouse gases, based on the share of global emissions required by the developing countries to meet their economic and social development needs, eradicate poverty and realize the right to development; (b) fulfil their commitments to effective technology transfer; and (c) guarantee the provision of necessary additional resources on an appropriate,

predictable and sustainable basis, given that the developing countries' adaptation requirements have increased as a result of the environmental crisis and our countries need this climate debt to be paid if they are to take action to mitigate its effects.

10. At the United Nations Conference on Climate Change, to be held in Copenhagen at the end of this year, the developed countries must make significant commitments under the Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adopt mechanisms for compensating countries that preserve, protect and conserve their forests.

11. The "Yasuní ITT" initiative being carried out by Ecuador is an effective voluntary measure for tackling the problem of climate change, guaranteeing the conservation of one of the most biodiverse places in the world. Under this initiative, Ecuador will forego the exploitation of 846 million barrels of petroleum deposits in the subsoil of Yasuní National Park, thereby avoiding emission into the atmosphere of the 407 million metric tons of carbon that the burning of these fossil fuels would have produced. The initiative will contribute to respect for the indigenous cultures of the peoples living in voluntary isolation in Yasuní National Park, as well as to social development, nature conservation and promotion of the use of renewable energy sources.

12. The energy crisis has been caused by the irrational consumption patterns imposed by rich countries and by monopolistic and financial speculation benefiting the big transnational corporations.

13. In order to bring about a real change in access to energy in the world, particularly in the developing countries, regional cooperation, complementation and integration efforts will have to be made in developing energy efficient models for energy generation, transmission and use, as well as in developing renewables, to ensure that the whole population has access to services.

14. Access to energy is a right of peoples that States must guarantee by strengthening their public policies, defending peoples' rights to their country's natural resources and looking for alternative energy sources, thereby ensuring conservation and development in harmony with nature.

15. The adverse impact of the food crisis on our peoples is one of the most pressing problems of the twenty-first century, demanding urgent, coordinated measures to ensure adequate and timely access to food and guarantee food sovereignty and security for the developing countries.

16. The irrational use of foodstuffs to produce biofuels is a practice that contributes to the food crisis, increases poverty, reduces forest areas and the amount of land available for meeting food needs and increases food prices and indiscriminate water use.

17. Migration is not a crime. All forms of discrimination against and criminalization of migrants must be abolished. The immigration policies of the United States Government must be amended and the European Union's directive on the return of illegal immigrants revoked as a matter of urgency, in order to halt mass deportations and round-ups, permit family reunification and remove the wall on the United States-Mexico border, which separates and divides our peoples instead of uniting us. Discriminatory and selective laws and policies that cause loss of human lives must be repealed, including the Cuban Adjustment Act and the "wet foot, dry

foot" policy applied by the United States Government to illegal immigrants from Cuba.

18. Rather than immigration policies based essentially on security that have been imposed, ironically, in countries that were built by immigrants, there must be greater dialogue and joint action among countries of origin, transit and destination of migrants, so that a comprehensive approach to migration can be adopted that focuses on human beings and on respect for their rights.

19. The Heads of State and Government express their support for the creation and strengthening of joint mechanisms that build on the progress made by the Latin American and Caribbean countries in exchanging experience and best practices for combating human trafficking, illegal migrant trafficking and sexual, labour and other forms of exploitation.

20. The impact of the global economic crisis of capitalism on the peoples and nations of the South has made South-South cooperation essential. In this context, the Conference on South-South Cooperation to be held in Kenya in December 2009 is very important.

21. Faced with the advance and growth of progressive forces and ideas in Latin America and the Caribbean, as reflected, inter alia, in the growing strength of ALBA-TCP, imperialism and right-wing forces have reacted with the coup d'état in Honduras and the installation of military bases in Colombia.

22. José Manuel Zelaya Rosales, the constitutional President of Honduras, must be reinstated immediately and unconditionally. No electoral process held under the government installed by the coup, nor any authorities emerging from that process, can be recognized by the international community. The human rights violations, detentions and deaths currently suffered by the Honduran people are growing worse as the dictatorship's delaying tactics fail and the fraudulent elections called in an attempt to consolidate its position draw near. In this context, it is essential to mount a diplomatic offensive and promote forcible action for the full restoration of the constitutional system.

23. The installation of United States military bases in Latin America and the Caribbean fosters distrust among peoples, endangers peace, threatens democracy and facilitates hegemonic interference in the region. Latin America and the Caribbean constitute a zone of peace that must be free of foreign military bases and forces that pose a threat to our peoples. The Government of Colombia must reconsider the installation of the military bases concerned. The territory illegally occupied by the United States naval base at Guantánamo must be returned unconditionally to Cuba.

24. The United States economic, commercial and financial blockade against the Republic of Cuba must be lifted unconditionally, unilaterally and immediately.

25. It is unacceptable that, in violation of international norms, various governments give refuge or asylum to individuals who do not qualify as refugees or asylum seekers under the international instruments in force and are accused of crimes against humanity and terrorism. By doing this, the governments concerned obstruct efforts to investigate the debts that the accused owe to justice.

26. Protection of cultural identity and diversity is fundamental to the struggle against neo-colonialism. Progress must therefore be made in reappraising and

decriminalizing the chewing of coca leaf and in removing coca leaf from Schedule I of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.

27. Comprehensive, effective measures to combat drug trafficking must be taken in a context of strict respect for sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, shared responsibility and respect for human rights, through regional and multilateral cooperative actions that root out once and for all neo-colonial practices of drug certification and decertification and abolition of trade preferences such as those applied by the United States for the purposes of political hegemony.

28. The mass media must discharge their social function with responsibility and a sense of ethics and public service for all citizens; they must not be instruments of the sectarian interests of certain minorities nor be used as means of disinformation and political destabilization.

29. The confidence-building process between Bolivia and Chile with a view to resolving Bolivia's historical demand for a sovereign outlet to the sea, in a context of brotherhood, respect and trust between two neighbouring peoples, is an effort that deserves the support of the entire international community so that it can achieve tangible results.

30. The forthcoming general elections in Bolivia on 6 December 2009 are renewed evidence of the ALBA-TCP countries' commitment to democracy, in response to anti-democratic attitudes and coup movements in Latin America and the Caribbean.

II

The Heads of State and Government of the countries members of the Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América — Tratado de Comercio de los Pueblos (ALBA-TCP) (Alliance for the Peoples of our America — Peoples' Trade Agreement) hereby agree on the following measures:

1. They agree to rename the Single Regional Payment Clearing System (SUCRE) the Unified Regional Payment Clearing System (SUCRE), which better expresses the feeling of unity and the object of the SUCRE system. To this end, they sign the Treaty setting up the Unified Regional Payment Clearing System as an instrument for achieving monetary and financial sovereignty, eliminating dependence on the United States dollar in regional trade, reducing asymmetries and gradually consolidating an economic zone of shared development. They instruct SUCRE technical committees to hold a meeting by mid-November at the latest to discuss the SUCRE implementation plan.[1]

2. They establish the fundamental principles that will govern the Peoples' Trade Agreement, in order to develop regional trade based on complementarity, solidarity and cooperation for well-being.

3. They instruct the Economic Complementation Council to set up an ALBA-TCP trade complementation working group charged with presenting a proposal for a Peoples' Trade Agreement based on the aforementioned fundamental principles.

4. They adopt the plan of action for the development of trade in the ALBA-TCP economic zone of shared development in order to expedite action in this sphere.

[1] Reservations to this paragraph entered by the Commonwealth of Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

5. They agree to create a multi-country import-export company, ALBAEXIM, as a mechanism for promoting trade complementarity among ALBA-TCP countries.

6. They agree to promote cooperation among the competent bodies of ALBA-TCP member countries with a view to the signing of an agreement on reciprocal recognition of certificates of quality for the textile and garment sector, as a means of strengthening trade among ALBA-TCP countries. They welcome the signing of an agreement between Venezuela and Bolivia.

7. They endorse continuation of the multi-country literacy and post-literacy project and the ALBAMED project, giving priority to ALBA Bank funding in order to ensure their sustainability and envisaged scope and the possible incorporation of all member countries in the near future.

8. They instruct the ALBA-TCP Ministerial Social Council to develop the different activities and projects identified in the areas of education, health, work and housing.

9. They entrust the ALBA-TCP Ministerial Social Council with working on a proposal for integrated action in health surveillance for the prevention, detection and timely control of emerging and re-emerging diseases.

10. They instruct the ALBA-TCP Ministerial Social Council to include the topics of culture and sport in its areas of competence.

11. They reiterate the decision to streamline the procedures for ratification of the Agreement on Recognition of University Qualifications in accordance with their respective domestic laws, with a view to its early implementation in ALBA-TCP member countries.

12. They welcome the creation of the ALBA-TCP Educational Publishing House, the object of which is to create facilities for the production, publication and distribution of educational texts and/or materials of common interest to the member countries in order to strengthen educational policies for the benefit of our peoples, and they entrust its coordination to Bolivia.

13. They agree to give priority and funding to the multi-country ALBA-Education project, which treats the educational system as a continuous, integrated whole and includes lines of work in the areas of basic education and university education.

14. They agree to set up a working group under the Social Programmes Council to deal with labour and social security issues, including ALBA-TCP certification of labour competencies, in order to design projects that enhance employment and working conditions by recognizing acquired training and expertise, as well as the ancestral knowledge of our peoples.

15. They urge early establishment of a ministerial committee on women and equal opportunity as a forum that will give the women of our peoples a visible, active role and ensure gender mainstreaming in all ALBA-TCP integration initiatives and instruments.

16. They agree to set up an ALBA-TCP ministerial committee for the protection of nature, meeting under the auspices of the Political Council, and entrust it with working on an ALBA-TCP environmental agenda and on the definition and implementation of the rights of Mother Earth.

17. They recommend the establishment of a group to study the creation of an international tribunal for climate justice as a mechanism for ensuring that the developed countries pay their climate debt and fulfil their commitment to reduce domestic emissions of greenhouse gases. Such a tribunal will be composed of developing country representatives, whose task it will be to prosecute those responsible for the planet's current climate crisis.

18. They agree to promote the creation and strengthening of multi-country corporations, as an innovative mechanism of the Peoples' Trade Agreement that will allow each country's capacities, expertise and strengths to be maximized, based on its potential, and will reduce asymmetries, strengthen complementarities, optimize resources and consolidate projects that contribute to structural, technological and economic development for the well-being of peoples. To that end, they call for the following measures:

- Ministers and secretaries of State for agriculture and forestry should be invited to attend the second meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Petrocaribe ALBA-Alimentos (ALBA-Food) initiative, to be held from 27 to 29 November 2009, in a location to be decided, to monitor the progress of the portfolio of projects presented to the ALBA-Alimentos technical secretariat, adopt the constituent statutes of the ALBA-Alimentos multi-country corporation and embark on the road map for establishing a multi-country forestry corporation within 90 days;

- With respect to the multi-country energy corporation, the ALBA-TCP working group on energy integration should meet within 90 days to monitor the progress of the portfolio of projects presented to the ALBA-TCP technical secretariat and, in the light of the political and legal realities of Alliance countries, to conclude negotiations on the contract establishing the multi-country corporation, its statutes and the final determination of the State corporations of each country that will be members of the multi-country corporation;

- Ministers with responsibility for mining and metallurgy should be invited to sign a commitment setting up a working group that will decide within three months on the creation of a multi-country institute, INGEOALBA, that will be an ALBA geological research, prospecting and services centre enabling our nations to create a geological map of our wealth and thereby determine the true value of our mineral wealth, and of a multi-country mining and metallurgy corporation that will develop joint plans and projects in the areas of prospecting, mining, processing, creation of added value, marketing and closure of mines, in a manner that respects humans and the environment;

- Ministers with responsibility for iron, steel and aluminium should be invited to sign commitments setting up two working groups that will decide within three months on the creation of two multi-country corporations, one for iron and steel and the other for aluminium;

- With respect to the ALBA-TCP multi-country industrial corporation Empresa Grannacional Socioproductiva Venezuela y Bolivia, a technical working group made up of representatives of ALBA-TCP member States will be established to conduct preliminary studies on the feasibility of setting up food-processing plants in Bolivia.

19. They instruct the Ministerial Economic Complementation Council, through the working group on agricultural and food sovereignty, to draw up a unified, consensus position of the member countries on food sovereignty for the forthcoming World Summit on Food Security to be held from 16 to 18 November 2009.

20. They entrust the recently constituted ALBA-TCP working group on issues of international law, self-determination, respect for sovereignty and human rights with drawing up general guidelines for the creation of a body that will contribute to the discussion and adoption of an international position based on a reformulation of these issues from an integrationist, intercultural standpoint.

21. They welcome the discussions of the meeting of the working group on settlement of disputes and, taking into account the sensitivity of this issue for our peoples, instruct it to continue its work with a view to presenting specific proposals on the subject within 30 days at Caracas, Venezuela.

22. They agree to restructure ALBA-TCP into three ministerial councils (political, economic complementation and social); committees answerable to these councils; and working groups for specific tasks. They also urge the Political Council to define the powers, functions and working procedures of the aforesaid bodies.

23. They welcome the proposals considered at the meeting of ministers of tourism on the creation of an ALBA multi-country hotel chain, a multi-country tourism training institute and a tourism development research centre, as well as the necessary impetus for continuing to improve airline connections among member countries.

24. They support efforts to create a Latin American and Caribbean organization, made up of the region's 33 independent nations, to help consolidate their political and economic independence and promote integration, cooperation and solidarity among their peoples.

25. They agree to participate actively and coordinate positions in the meetings of Foreign Ministers of the Rio Group and in the Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development (CALC) to be held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, from 4 to 6 November 2009.

26. They give broad support to the activities of the ALBA-TCP working group on the review of industrial property law and adopt the proposal to expand the group's area of study to include the issue of intellectual property, with a view to the development of a model for the social appropriation of knowledge that will help overcome the constraints imposed by the international intellectual property regime on the production of goods essential for life.

27. They agree to promote an ALBA satellite project, designed to enable ALBA member countries to use Simón Bolívar Satellite capacity to provide rural telephone and broadband Internet services by satellite. To this end, a telecommunications commission will be established, made up of the bodies responsible for such services, to identify satellite solutions for the countries of the region, under specific programmes presented by the relevant entities in those countries, and to stipulate the conditions for obtaining Simón Bolívar Satellite landing rights and deploying land-based services.

28. They set up, as part of the Political Council, an ALBA-TCP standing committee on the sovereignty and defence of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples

of Our America, whose main objectives will be to define a comprehensive joint popular defence strategy and to set up a school for the dignity and sovereignty of the armed forces of ALBA-TCP countries.[2]

29. They instruct the Social Council to set up a working group to draft a proposal for the establishment and operation of an ALBA-TCP scientific pole as a means of pooling efforts for the autonomous development of regional science and technology capabilities, with industrial applications in pharmaceuticals production, starting with the development of Quimbiotec as a blood products processing plant for the ALBA-TCP countries.

30. They agree that the Political Council should present, through a working group, a proposal for the analysis and development of the ALBA-TCP Radio del Sur (Radio of the South) project, the creation of an ALBA-TCP news agency and the establishment of thematic channels co-produced by ALBA-TCP countries in order to promote a communication model that permits a genuine meeting among our peoples, strengthens democratic processes in the region and breaks down the communication barrier imposed by transnational media giants.

31. They instruct the Political Council to present a proposal for the creation of an ALBA television and cinema school, based on the experiences of Cuba, Venezuela and all the ALBA-TCP countries.

32. They entrust the executive secretariat with developing and maintaining a permanent portal with information on the progress, achievements and proposals of ALBA-TCP, and with ensuring the ongoing production and distribution of publications.

33. They welcome the binational Ecuador/Venezuela Media Observatory project and instruct the Political Council to take all necessary steps for the project's extension to the other ALBA-TCP member countries as a mechanism for monitoring the mass media, so that they can tackle the media war and review the legal frameworks for communication and information in their respective countries.

34. They instruct the Economic Complementation Council to set up a working group to evaluate different design alternatives for an ALBA-TCP mechanism for the management of international reserves, to be called the ALBA-TCP Reserve Fund.

35. They instruct the Social Council to promote and develop, through a working group, a programme proposal for the care and protection of people with disabilities. This programme will include, inter alia, biopsychosocial and genetic studies to determine the incidence of disability and its relationship with poverty and social exclusion. Its ultimate aim is to promote the effective integration of people with disabilities, without discrimination, into productive, economic, political, social and cultural life and to develop their individual potential.

36. They instruct the Social Council to present a project for bringing into the education systems of ALBA-TCP countries those population groups that have historically been excluded from them.

---

[2] Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines enter reservations based on their membership of a Regional Security System (RSS) made up of the countries of the eastern Caribbean.

Signed at Cochabamba, Plurinational State of Bolivia, on 17 October 2009.

For the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia:
Evo **Morales Ayma**
President

For the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela:
Hugo **Chávez Frías**
President

For the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua:
Daniel **Ortega**
President

For the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:
Ralph E. **Gonsalves**
Prime Minister

For the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica:
Roosvelt **Skerrit**
Prime Minister

For the Government of Antigua and Barbuda:
Winston **Baldwin Spencer**
Prime Minister

For the Government of the Republic of Cuba:
José Ramón **Machado Ventura**
First Vice-President of the Councils of State and Ministers

For the Government of the Republic of Honduras:
Patricia **Rodas**
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Republic of Ecuador:
Julio **Oleas Montalvo**
Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade and Integration

United Nations A/C.2/64/9

General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 October 2009
English
Original: Spanish

Sixty-fourth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 53
Sustainable development

Letter dated 23 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the seventh summit meeting of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of our America-Peoples' Trade Treaty, held at Cochabamba, Bolivia on 17 October 2009.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reaffirms its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations which, it believes, is the multilateral forum best suited to confront the challenges facing the international community.

In this regard, I have the honour to attach herewith a copy of the Special Declaration for a Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as a General Assembly document under agenda item 53.

(*Signed*) Jorge **Valero**
Permanent Representative

09-58114 (E) 021109 031109

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 17 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Special Declaration for a Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth

1. In the twenty-first century it is impossible to attain the full protection of human rights if, at the same time, we do not recognize and protect the rights of planet Earth and nature. It is only by guaranteeing the rights of Mother Earth that we will be able to guarantee the protection of human rights. Planet Earth can exist without human life, but we human beings cannot exist without planet Earth.

2. Just as the Second World War engendered a grave crisis for mankind which led to the adoption in 1948 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, today we are suffering from the grave consequences of the climate change crisis, which dictates the need for a Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth.

3. The environmental crisis, of which global warming is one aspect, is demonstrating in a tangible way an essential principle which has been upheld for millenniums by the original and indigenous peoples throughout the world: that we human beings are part of an interdependent system of plants, animals, hills, forests, oceans and air which we must respect and safeguard. This system is what we call Mother Earth. "The Earth does not belong to man, but man belongs to the Earth." The Earth is not a collection of things which we can plunder, but a collection of natural entities with which we must learn to live in harmony and equilibrium, while respecting their rights.

4. The concept that only human beings have rights is giving rise to an increasing imbalance throughout the system by giving free rein to violation of the rights of other natural entities. There are differences between human beings and the other components of Mother Earth which must be taken into account in a Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth.

5. It is inconceivable and unacceptable that even in the twenty-first century we do not recognize the rights of Mother Earth which gives us life.

6. The Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth must recognize, inter alia:

6.1. The right to life, which means the right to exist. Every ecosystem, animal or vegetable species, mountain, river or lake has the right to exist without being threatened by the activities of human beings, whose rights cease when they imperil the survival of Mother Earth, disrupting the balance of nature and coexistence with nature.

6.2. The right to regeneration of its biocapacity and its vital cycles. If we human beings consume and squander more than Mother Earth is able to restore or recreate, we are destroying the Planet, all living things and ourselves.

6.3. The right to a healthy environment, which means the right of Mother Earth, rivers, fish, animals and trees, just like human beings, to live free from pollution, poisoning and toxicity.

6.4. The right to harmony and equilibrium among each and all. This is the right to be recognized as part of a system on which we are all interdependent. It is the right to live in a state of equilibrium with all human beings. There are millions of living species on the planet, but only we human beings have the awareness and the ability to control our own actions in order to promote harmony with nature.

7. In order to ensure the full attainment of the rights of Mother Earth, States must apply precautionary and restrictive measures to activities which may lead to the extinction of species, the destruction of ecosystems or the permanent alteration of natural cycles.

8. The fact that natural entities cannot directly protect their rights cannot deprive them of that protection. Just as society and the State take over the protection of the rights of children and persons who are incapacitated, similarly they must ensure the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the rights of Mother Earth. The United Nations must promote and ensure respect for the rights of Mother Earth at the global level.

9. The Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth must be advanced within the framework of the United Nations as a common ideal towards which all people and nations must strive so that not only individuals but also institutions, drawing constant inspiration from the Declaration, may foster respect for those rights through teaching and education, and, through progressive measures at the national and international levels, ensure recognition of these rights and their universal and effective application.

United Nations A/C.2/64/10

General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 October 2009
English
Original: Arabic

Sixty-fourth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 53
Sustainable development

Letter dated 28 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of my Government, I have the honour to convey to you the position of the Syrian Arab Republic in respect of your report on the oil slick on Lebanese shores (A/64/259).

It is common knowledge that the oil slick was caused by the savage, repeated and deliberate bombing by Israel on 13 and 15 July 2006 of the oil storage tanks at the Lebanese Jiyeh electric power plant. The bombings, which were part of the barbaric Israeli aggression against Lebanon, caused an oil slick that covered the entirety of the Lebanese coastline and precipitated a grave environmental and economic disaster, the effects of which are still apparent. The prevailing winds and marine currents carried the slick onto the Syrian coastline, polluting a large portion thereof. This has been verified by satellite images, reports of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other United Nations reports that have been submitted to the Second Committee since 2007, the latest of which is the present report of the Secretary-General, and has been affirmed by General Assembly resolutions 61/194, 62/188 and 63/211.

On 30 July 2006, after the oil slick had spread to the Syrian shoreline, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic launched a comprehensive campaign to clean up polluted shores and undertook maritime patrols in order to monitor the slick. On 2 August 2006, another section of the oil slick washed up on the Syrian coastline. On 8 August 2006, UNEP dispatched two experts, who conducted an on-site assessment and confirmed the damage done by the oil slick. The Syrian Government undertook to control the spread of the slick and clean up its shores on its own, using local resources and capacities and without any international assistance. To date, it is impossible to assess the short- and long-term damage done to the marine ecosystem from the sharp rise in the concentration of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons resulting from the oil spill.

09-58371 (E) 301009 301009

Please recycle

In paragraph 4 of its resolution 63/211, the General Assembly called on the Government of Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon and other countries directly affected by the oil slick, such as the Syrian Arab Republic whose shores have been partially polluted, for the costs of repairing the environmental damage caused by the destruction, including the restoration of the marine environment.

The report of the Secretary-General, which was submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/211, indicates that Israel has yet to assume its responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon. However, the report fails to note that Israel has not yet made prompt and adequate compensation to Syria. My country is surprised that although the Secretary-General's report urges Israel to take the necessary actions towards assuming responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to Lebanon, it does not urge Israel to also assume its responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to Syria. The report therefore does not completely reflect the mandate with which the Secretary-General was entrusted, as set out in paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 63/211. That mandate was affirmed by the majority of Member States when the Assembly adopted the aforementioned resolution at its sixty-third session. Reports of the Secretary-General that are prepared in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions should strictly adhere to the mandates contained therein because reaching agreement among Member States on resolutions requires strenuous effort and lengthy negotiations and discussions.

In that connection, my country stands ready to provide the Secretariat with information regarding the extent of the environmental damage caused by the spread of the oil slick into its territorial waters and onto its shoreline, and the cost of repairing that damage, so that the Secretariat may follow up on the implementation of the mandate entrusted to it under General Assembly resolution 63/211, as is customary.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 53, which is allocated to the Second Committee.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative
Ambassador

United Nations A/C.2/64/11

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 November 2009

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 53 (d)
Sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations

Letter dated 20 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), I have the honour to transmit herewith the AOSIS Declaration on Climate Change, adopted by acclamation by the Heads of State and Government, ministers and heads of delegation at the AOSIS Summit on Climate Change, which was held at the American Museum of Natural History, the Rose Center, in New York on Monday, 21 September 2009 (see annex).

On behalf of the Member States of AOSIS, I have the further honour to request that the AOSIS Declaration on Climate Change be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 53 (d).

(*Signed*) Dessima M. **Williams**
Permanent Representative

09-59318 (E) 061109

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 20 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Alliance of Small Island States Declaration on Climate Change 2009

We, the Member States of the Alliance of Small Island States, meeting in New York this 21st day of September,

Gravely concerned that climate change poses the most serious threat to our survival and viability, and that it undermines our efforts to achieve sustainable development goals and threatens our very existence,

Alarmed that emerging scientific evidence shows that the effects of human-induced climate change are worse than previously projected and that the impacts of climate change which we are already experiencing, including sea level rise, more frequent and extreme weather events, ocean acidification, coral bleaching, coastal erosion, and changing precipitation patterns, will further intensify,

Greatly disturbed that despite the mitigation commitments made by Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, especially those of the developed countries, global emissions continue to increase, leading to rapidly accelerating impacts, accompanied by costs and burdens that are beyond the ability of many, but especially the small island developing States and other particularly vulnerable countries, to control,

Profoundly disappointed by the lack of apparent ambition within the international climate change negotiations to protect the small island developing States and other particularly vulnerable countries, their peoples, culture, land and ecosystems from the impacts of climate change and expressing our further concern at the slow pace of these negotiations,

1. *Now therefore*, we, call upon the international community, with the developed countries taking the lead, to undertake urgent, ambitious and decisive action to significantly reduce emissions of all greenhouse gases, including fast action strategies, and to support the small island developing States and other particularly vulnerable countries in their efforts to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, including through the provision of increased levels of financial and technological resources.

2. We underscore that adaptation must be an urgent and immediate global priority.

3. We firmly maintain that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

4. We reaffirm the principles enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, in particular, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities having regard to national circumstances, and the precautionary principle.

5. We urge all Parties to work with an increased sense of urgency and purpose towards an ambitious, comprehensive and meaningful outcome that preserves the

legal nature of the international climate change regime and the existing commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol.

6. We assert thus that the outcome to be concluded at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen in 2009 should inter alia:

(a) Use the avoidance of adverse climate change impacts on the small island developing States as one of the key benchmarks for assessing its appropriateness, consistent with the precautionary principle and the principle of prevention;

(b) Adopt a package of mitigation activities, now, up to and beyond 2012, that provides for:

(i) Long-term stabilization of atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations at well below the level of 350 parts per million of carbon dioxide equivalent;

(ii) Global average surface temperature increases to be limited to well below 1.5 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels;

(iii) Global greenhouse gas emissions to peak by 2015 and decline thereafter;

(iv) Reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions by more than 85 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050;

(v) Annex I parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to reduce their collective greenhouse gas emissions by more than 45 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020 and more than 95 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050, given their historical responsibility;

(vi) A significant deviation from business as usual by developing countries through measurable, reportable and verifiable nationally appropriate mitigation actions in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity-building, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner;

(c) Provide the small island developing States with new, additional, predictable, transparent and adequate sources of grant-based financing to fully meet the adaptation needs of these particularly vulnerable countries, and ensure for SIDS that access is timely, direct, prioritized and simplified;

(d) Call for an urgent and significant scaling up of the provision of financial resources and investment that is adequate, predictable and sustainable to support action on mitigation in developing country parties for the enhanced implementation of national mitigation strategies, including positive incentives, the mobilization of public- and private-sector funding and investment, and facilitation of carbon-friendly investment choices;

(e) Ensure that renewable energy and energy efficiency form essential pillars of future mitigation actions by all countries, taking into account national circumstances;

(f) Establish a mechanism to address loss and damage from climate change comprised of a disaster risk component, insurance, and compensation funds, to help SIDS manage the financial and economic risks arising from the impacts of climate change; to assist in rapid recovery and rehabilitation from climate change-related

extreme weather events and to address unavoidable damage and loss associated with the adverse effects of climate change;

(g) Provide support to the small island developing States to enhance their capacities to respond to the challenges brought on by climate change and to access the technologies that will be required to undertake needed mitigation actions and to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, noting the obligations of annex I countries under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in this regard.

7. In our voluntary efforts to defeat deforestation and increase carbon sequestration, finance, technology and capacity development is necessary to underpin a step-wise process for reducing emissions and increasing carbon sequestration through the conservation and sustainable management of forests and the use of crops which are good carbon dioxide sequestrators. Based on national circumstances, a well designed REDD-Plus instrument will require resource mobilization from a variety of sources, including public, private and market-based, as appropriate,[1] "that employ robust methodological standards for measurable, reportable and verifiable actions. Robust environmental integrity will need to be maintained if a REDD[2] mechanism is linked to the international carbon markets.

8. Acknowledging the portfolio of technologies identified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to achieve lower stabilization levels, including, among others, carbon storage and sequestration, hydropower, solar, wind, geothermal and bioenergy, and determined to avail ourselves of such technologies, as appropriate and based on their feasibility and applicability, we encourage, where applicable, national, regional and international efforts for consideration of a process to overcome technical, economic and policy barriers with a view to facilitating the development and commercialization of appropriate and affordable low- and zero-emission technologies.

9. We further recognize that the inclusion of carbon capture and storage is potentially an important mitigation option for achieving the ambitious emission reduction targets being supported by the Alliance of Small Island States and urge the development of a programme of work on carbon capture and storage in order to resolve related issues.

10. We also emphasize that there is an urgent need to consider and address the security implications and the human dimensions of climate change, including, where necessary, initiatives for preparing communities for relocation.

11. We underscore that while the small island developing States contribute the least to global emissions, and have limited human, financial and technical resources, our nations continue to take significant actions towards the reduction of our own emissions, including through regional and interregional energy initiatives.

12. We also recognize the need to reinforce the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process by calling on the big emitters to agree to produce enough clean energy to attain the targets of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degree Celsius and 350 parts per million of atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations.

---

[1] Tuvalu expressed a reservation on the reference to market-based sources.

[2] Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

13. Finally, we express our support for the establishment of the Headquarters of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Adaptation Fund Board in Barbados.

14. We, the Member States of the Alliance of Small Island States, strongly emphasize the importance of urgent progress towards a fair and meaningful Copenhagen outcome which, through safeguarding the most vulnerable countries, ensures a truly shared and sustainable global vision for our present and future generations.